



A New Path Forward



Dear Friends,

This week marked the start of a new chapter to address homelessness in Los Angeles County. At our Tuesday Board of Supervisors meeting, my colleagues [approved my motion](#) to adopt the [seven recommendations](#) brought forward by the [Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness](#). After six months of careful evaluation

rethink how we approach homelessness across our region to better meet the needs of those on our streets and those in our communities. The commission identified strategic steps so we can move forward with greater clarity and accountability. Importantly, the process included the input of local partners in our cities to help identify solutions that work in every part of the County, not just the City of Los Angeles.

One of the recommendations included creating a County department to coordinate and unify the homeless services provided by multiple County departments. This new entity will centralize resources for people experiencing homelessness by connecting them to housing and supportive services. Another recommendation focuses on creating a "local solutions fund" through Measure H, the quarter-cent sales tax approved by voters to address homelessness, to fund cities' efforts to implement their own homeless housing and service plans. Additionally, the motion voted to streamline the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's role by refocusing its efforts exclusively on stewarding federal funding contracts and opportunities.

The Blue Ribbon Commission was incredibly collaborative and comprehensive. Now, we have [a clear path forward](#) that I'm confident can change the way we address homelessness in Los Angeles County.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial 'K'.

Kathryn Barger

Supervisor, Fifth District

State of the County



It was an honor to be back for my State of the County address, hosted by the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce, for the first time since the pandemic. I'm always grateful for the commitment of the Santa Clarita Valley community as we work to find solutions for homelessness, public safety, and economic recovery. If you missed it live, you can still watch the entire address on my Facebook.

[Watch the address.](#)

Crescenta Valley



Crescenta Valley residents are deeply committed to their community and make it a uniquely wonderful place to live, work, and play. It was a joy to join the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce for their 16th Hometown Country Fair last weekend!

[Connect with the CV Chamber.](#)

Community Partners



Joining the Chinese American Association of West Covina for their 4th anniversary was an incredibly special way to celebrate the start of AAPI Heritage Month! I'm deeply grateful for the contributions of our AAPI community in the San Gabriel Valley and across Los Angeles County.

[Read my motion celebrating AAPI Month.](#)

[Explore AAPI Month events and resources.](#)

Fun at the Fair



Everyone's favorite fair is here for their 100th anniversary celebration! The L.A. County Fair is back and ready to commemorate a century of fun, food, and festivities. Get tickets and plan your trip from now until the end of the month.

[Get tickets.](#)

Mental Health Month



**MENTAL HEALTH
IS HEALTH**

Join Us May 1-31



May is Mental Health Month! Los Angeles County is encouraging residents to participate in the Why We Rise campaign, where you can attend community-led events and access resources. Get connected all month long to support health, healing, and hope in your neighborhood and online.

[Find resources and events.](#)

Leading L.A. Opera



The L.A. Opera's success is so greatly due to the passion, leadership, and generosity of Marc and Eva Stern. To celebrate Marc's 20-year legacy as Chair of the Opera, friends and music lovers gathered onstage at The Music Center on Thursday, where we heard stories of his dedication and the world premiere of a song named in his honor! I'm pictured above with Marc (right), Eva (center), and fellow lover of the arts former Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (left).

Opera in the Park

The opera is coming to the Fifth District! My office is partnering with the L.A. Opera and the City of Santa Clarita to host a free simulcast of Aida, one of the world's most beloved operas, at Newhall Park. The dramatic story of Aida tells the tale of an Ethiopian princess torn between her people and her love for the enemy general. Mark your calendar for June 4 at 7:30 p.m. to see the show!

[Enjoy Opera in the Park.](#)

Listen to our Dialogue



The L.A. County Library has been hosting their Trailblazers in Conversation series to explore discussions with elected officials, authors, community organizers, and other trailblazers who are making a difference in our community. I was grateful to talk with L.A. County Library Director Skye Patrick on Monday about mental health advocacy, my career journey, and more. Check out the Library's Twitter feed to see some quotes from our discussion!

[See the Twitter highlights.](#)

[Check out library resources.](#)

Pups of the Week



Tike



Sammy

Meet two incredible pups looking for new homes! Tike is a Boxer and is just 15 weeks old. Staff at the animal care center say he's very lovable and incredibly friendly, so he's sure to be a great addition to the perfect pet parents! Since he is a puppy, he'll need a family who is willing to invest their time to train him. Sammy is a two-year-old Pit Bull who was found as a stray. She's very gentle, calm, and obedient and would do well in a relaxed environment. If you'd like to meet either Tike or Sammy, make an appointment today!

[Pick your perfect pet.](#)

Cool off at Splash Pads



Splash pads are back! Summer is just around the corner and triple-digit temperatures are fast approaching. But no need to sweat! Head to your local splash pad to keep cool this spring for free family fun. Stephen Sorensen Park in Lake L.A. and Pearblossom Park splash pads both reopened May 1. Splash pads are open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week through Sept. 30. Please note that the Castaic Aquatic Center splash pad is only open during recreational swim hours.

[Find a splash pad.](#)

Fitness Centers Reopen



Do you like to get moving at your local senior center or community center? Fitness rooms will reopen at L.A. County facilities starting Monday, May 9! Visitors will be asked to sign a liability waiver and fill out a training packet before using the facilities to make sure everyone is safe. Call your local center for availability and to make a reservation! You can reach the Altadena Senior Center at (626) 798-0505 and the Antelope Valley Senior Center at (661) 726-4400.

[Visit your senior center.](#)

Youth Surveys



In Los Angeles County, we want to do right by our youth. There are two surveys currently being conducted to help us garner feedback so we can better serve the young people in our communities. The [Los Angeles County Youth Commission](#) is partnering with the [Department of Mental Health](#) to ask young people ages 12 to 26 years old to fill out the Speak Your Truth Survey about mental health needs. Additionally, the Los Angeles Unified School District has released a survey for students, families, and community members to share their thoughts on the district's [100-Day Plan](#), which focuses on four tasks: learn, assess, communicate, and act. Thank you for your input and time!

[Fill out the Youth Commission survey.](#)

[Fill out the LAUSD survey.](#)



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